



Statement of Shelli Weisberg, Legislative Director
House Committee on Government Operations
December 5, 2006
HB 6527

The mission of the ACLU of Michigan, a membership organization representing over 15,000 Michigan citizens, is to enforce the Bill of Rights and advance its principles. Through a variety of programs - legislative, public education and our legal program supported almost entirely by volunteer attorneys, the ACLU is the premier civil rights organization and has earned widespread respect for its consistent defense of constitutionally based principles.

The ACLU of Michigan supports HB 6527 in that it removes from the strictest regulations of the Michigan Gaming Control and Revenue Act those employment positions not directly related to gaming activities. The ACLU believes ex-offenders who have paid their debt to society should be offered the chance for productive work and dignity. Blanket denials, unrelated to any legitimate state interest, of the opportunity for employment imposes additional punishment on the ex-offender and goes against society's interest in increasing the person's alternatives to criminal activity.